

2008 Ulster County May Census

Eleven individuals in seven field parties participated in the **May 10, 2008** annual Ulster County May Census (a/k/a JBNHS "Century Day"), an International Migratory Bird Day county-wide "Big Day" bird count where field parties attempt to locate as many species of birds as possible within the county in one day. This year's census was conducted on the traditional second Saturday of the month, recording a total of **143 species**, one species shy of the 2006 total and eleven species short of last year's above average count.

Field conditions were nearly ideal with a temperature range of 45-70 ° (F) under mostly clear skies with some early morning clouds and a north wind ranging from 5-15 mph. The lack of any significant rainfall over the preceding week resulted in dry to very moderate drainage and stream flows in most areas, reducing the presence of hearing impediments. Leaf-out appeared to be a week or more in advance of typical conditions for this date.

Highlights of the 2008 census include a first-time record of a **Barn Owl** heard vocalizing in Port Ewen by Mark DeDea at 4:00 a.m., **Least Bittern** in the Kingston Point lagoon where we traditionally encountered this species regularly in the late eighties and early nineties, **Bay-breasted Warbler** on Lower Mossy Brook Road in New Paltz, and **Hooded Warbler** at Seamon Park in Saugerties and four individuals in Minnewaska State Park. We documented a total of 23 species of warblers, including two reports of **Wilson's Warbler** (Rider Park in the Town of Ulster and Mountain Rest Road in New Paltz), four reports of **Worm-eating Warbler**, and two reports of **Canada Warbler**.

Ring-necked Duck (The Great Vly, Saugerties), American Widgeon (across from Ryder Park), Osprey, Bald Eagle (three reports), White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow (five reports from seven field parties), and Pine Siskin (two reports) were also noteworthy. Orchard Oriole is now regularly encountered on this May Census.

With the exception of Savannah Sparrow, no unusual grassland sparrows were reported, and we missed Tennessee, Cerulean, Palm, Mourning, and Blackpoll Warblers (despite many reports of Blackpoll in the days following the count and one report of Palm Warbler). Brant, Whip-poor-will, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Wood-Pewee, and Swainson's Thrush also eluded all of the field parties. Sora, Alder Flycatcher, Horned Lark, and Cape May Warbler are now routinely absent from this count.

Field party information and a table of the complete 2008 composite summary appears below. Thanks once again to all of the participants for their time, effort, and dedication to this historical census.

Steve M. Chorvas – compiler

Field parties:

Group A – Mark DeDea (4:00 AM – 3:00 PM)

Group B – Larry Alden, Jackie Bogardus, Steve Chorvas, and Frank Murphy (2:45 AM – 9:15 PM)

Group C – Jaime Deppen and John Thompson (9:00 AM – 6:00 PM)

Group D – Peter Schoenberger (3:30 AM – 8:10 PM)

Group E – Alan Beebe (morning only)

Group F – Irene Warshauer

Group G – Glenn Nystrup (partial report)

2008 Ulster County May Census

Species	Group					
	A	B	C	D	E	F
Canada Goose						
Mute Swan		B		D	E	
Wood Duck	A	B		D	E	
American Widgeon	A					
Mallard	A	B		D	E	
Ring-necked Duck		B				
Hooded Merganser		B				
Common Merganser		B		D		
Wild Turkey		B	C	D	E	G
Common Loon	A	B				

	Group					
	A	B	C	D	E	F
Pied-billed Grebe		B				
Double-crested Cormorant	A	B		D		
Least Bittern	A					
Great Blue Heron	A	B		D	E	
Green Heron	A	B	C	D		
Black Vulture	A			D		G
Turkey Vulture	A	B	C	D	E	F
Osprey				D		
Bald Eagle		B		D	E	
Northern Harrier		B				

2008 Ulster County May Census (continued)

Species	Group					
		B				
Sharp-shinned Hawk		B				
Cooper's Hawk		B				
Red-shouldered Hawk		B		D		
Broad-winged Hawk						G
Red-tailed Hawk	A	B		D	E	
American Kestrel		B				
Virginia Rail		B				
Killdeer	A	B		D		
Greater Yellowlegs				D		
Lesser Yellowlegs		B		D		
Solitary Sandpiper		B		D		
Spotted Sandpiper	A	B		D		
Upland Sandpiper		B		D		
Least Sandpiper		B				
Wilson's Snipe		B				
American Woodcock		B		D		
Ring-billed Gull	A	B		D		
Herring Gull	A	B				
Great Black-backed Gull		B				
Rock Pigeon	A	B	C	D		
Mourning Dove	A	B	C	D	E	F
Black-billed Cuckoo		B		D		
Barn Owl	A					
Barred Owl		B		D		
Common Nighthawk		B				
Chimney Swift	A	B		D		
Ruby-throated Hummingbird		B		D		
Belted Kingfisher	A	B		D	E	
Red-headed Woodpecker		B				G
Red-bellied Woodpecker	A	B	C	D	E	F
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		B		D		
Downy Woodpecker	A	B	C	D	E	F
Hairy Woodpecker		B		D		
Northern Flicker	A	B		D		
Pileated Woodpecker	A	B		D		
Willow Flycatcher				D		
Least Flycatcher	A	B	C	D		
Eastern Phoebe	A	B		D	E	F
Great Crested Flycatcher	A	B	C	D		
Eastern Kingbird	A	B		D		
Yellow-throated Vireo	A	B		D		
Blue-headed Vireo		B	C	D		
Warbling Vireo	A	B		D		
Red-eyed Vireo	A	B	C	D		
Blue Jay	A	B	C	D	E	F
American Crow	A	B	C	D	E	F
Fish Crow	A	B	C			
Common Raven	A	B	C	D		
Purple Martin		B		D		
Tree Swallow	A	B	C	D	E	
No. Rough-winged Swallow	A	B			E	
Bank Swallow		B				
Cliff Swallow		B		D		

Species	Group					
	A	B		D		
Barn Swallow	A	B		D		
Black-capped Chickadee	A	B	C	D	E	F
Tufted Titmouse	A	B	C	D	E	F
Red-breasted Nuthatch	A	B		D		
White-breasted Nuthatch	A	B		D	E	F
Brown Creeper		B		D		
Carolina Wren	A	B		D		
House Wren	A	B	C	D		F
Winter Wren		B				
Marsh Wren	A	B		D		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	A	B			E	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	A	B		D		
Eastern Bluebird	A	B	C	D	E	
Veery	A	B	C			
Hermit Thrush		B		D		
Wood Thrush	A	B	C	D	E	
American Robin	A	B	C	D	E	F
Gray Catbird	A	B	C	D	E	F
Northern Mockingbird	A	B		D	E	
Brown Thrasher	A	B	C	D		
European Starling	A	B		D	E	F
Cedar Waxwing	A					
Blue-winged Warbler	A	B	C	D		F
Nashville Warbler	A	B	C			
Northern Parula	A	B		D		
Yellow Warbler	A	B	C	D	E	
Chestnut-sided Warbler		B	C	D		
Magnolia Warbler	A	B		D		
Black-throated Blue Warbler	A	B	C	D	E	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	A	B	C	D		
Black-throated Green Warbler		B	C	D		
Blackburnian Warbler		B		D		
Pine Warbler	A	B	C	D		
Prairie Warbler	A	B		D		
Bay-breasted Warbler			C			
Black-and-white Warbler	A	B	C	D		
American Redstart	A	B	C	D		
Worm-eating Warbler	A		C	D	E	
Ovenbird	A	B	C	D	E	
Northern Waterthrush	A	B				
Louisiana Waterthrush	A	B	C	D		
Common Yellowthroat	A	B	C	D	E	
Hooded Warbler			C			
Wilson's Warbler	A		C			
Canada Warbler	A	B				
Scarlet Tanager	A	B	C	D		
Eastern Towhee	A	B		D		G
Chipping Sparrow	A	B	C	D		F
Field Sparrow	A	B	C	D		
Savannah Sparrow	A	B		D		
Song Sparrow	A	B	C	D	E	F
Swamp Sparrow		B		D		
White-throated Sparrow	A	B	C	D	E	

2008 Ulster County May Census (continued)

Species	Group					
White-crowned Sparrow	A					
Dark-eyed Junco		B		D		
Northern Cardinal	A	B	C	D	E	F
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	A	B	C	D	E	
Indigo Bunting	A	B	C	D		
Bobolink		B		D		
Red-winged Blackbird	A	B	C	D	E	
Eastern Meadowlark		B		D		
Common Grackle	A	B	C	D	E	

Species	Group						
Brown-headed Cowbird	A	B	C	D	E		
Orchard Oriole	A	B	C				
Baltimore Oriole	A	B	C	D	E		
Purple Finch		B					
House Finch	A	B		D		F	
Pine Siskin	A			D			
American Goldfinch	A	B	C	D	E	F	
House Sparrow	A	B		D	E		
Totals: Composite - 143	95	128	56	108	43	20	5